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The INDEPENDENT has a larger daily circulation than any newspaper between St. Paul and Portland and a larger circulation than any other two daily papers published in Montana.

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THE BARD OF BITTER ROOT.

The Bitter Root valley has a poetess—a real, live poetess. She is more than a mortal; she is, according to the North West Tribune, of Stevensville, "a literary heroine of the muse goddess of the wild-woods."

There should hover a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to shield her from the rude gaze of men and women of flesh and blood; and with a delicate appreciation of genius scarcely to have been expected in the rush and whirl of journalistic life in the Bitter Root valley, where affairs of state are directed by a master intellect that saves Bismarck and Bayard, Salisbury and Flouquet-Tolstoi and Von Tizias the effort of thinking, the editor of the North West Tribune takes this flower of poetry, who prefers to "blush unseen and waste her sweetness on the bitter root," beneath his fatherly wing (if the simile may be permitted) in these words, here reproduced verbatim et literatim:

"No inviolate do we hold the secrecy of this sequestered vale of the Bitter Root, which we would have the public impugn these lines in deference to the subject of this sketch, whose lineage we wish not revealed at our hands, and in furtherance of this design, we withhold the non de plume of our heroine whose verse in thrilling bird-like notes have thrilled the souls of kindred spirits, of refined and cultured minds, from the blue Pacific's sunny strand to New England's learned and classic shore. Through much as we love to sing the praise of true merit and intrinsic worth, we reluctantly refrain from further intrusions within the secluded retreats of our fair authoress, whose income modestly scores the professor, whom we vainly would lay at the shrine of in-born greatness. Suffice it to say, that through unembarrassed on the sky of fame, the divine gifts of heaven are not bestowed in vain; and though these rich endowments may be bestowed upon the dwellers of Nature's wild uncultured solitudes, or on the humble and lowly in station, the ennobling and humanizing influences of their divine mission in life will be emphasized in golden deeds on the bosom of man."

In the words of Pliny the Younger when he met the old man out on a toot one gentle summer's eve: Bats!

THE BLACK FLAG.

The Inter Mountain, west side organ of the republican party, has raised the black flag and given notice that no nominations by the governor must be confirmed by the republican legislative council. The Inter Mountain would even make the decision of the November election retroactive, for it has fiercely assailed the council for confirming Judge Cullen as attorney general until the close of the present session, in spite of the fact that Judge Cullen in accepting the office as he did eighteen months ago and performing the duties thereof until the present time threw himself upon the council's sense of justice. Judge Cullen knew, as the governor knew, when it was appointed that unless the council chose to do what was fair and just he would receive no pay for such services as he might be called upon to render. Had not he or some one else under similar circumstances trusted to the legislative sense of honor the territory would have been without an attorney general during the last year and a half.

It is generally recognized that the Inter Mountain's article on the confirmation of Judge Cullen sounds the keynote of the republican policy concerning the governor's appointments. It is a policy which will work more injury to the republicans of Montana, if carried into effect, than to the democrats or the governor.

THE ADMISSION OUTLOOK.

Dispatches from Washington this morning indicate that there is still a fair probability of an agreement between the two houses of congress upon the territorial admission bill. The house conferees show a willingness to concede a point in the matter of the proposed vote on division of Dakota, while the republican senatorial caucus has withdrawn objection to the inclusion of New Mexico in the omnibus bill. The remarkably modest disposition of the legislative assembly would withhold from the senate any information as to the condition of public sentiment in Montana on the subject of admission, on the ground that, as one of the organs of the republican party has said, with utter self-abnegation, "it is pre-eminently proper that we keep our mouths shut."

The occasion of all the trouble that has befallen Malietto, the Samoan potentate, is shown by portraits of him and Tamasee, his rival, printed side by side in a St. Louis paper. While Tamasee still dresses decollete, with a string of sea shells about his neck, Malietto has departed from the faith of his fathers and donned a billed shirt, a collar, necktie and cloth coat. No wonder the kingdom is rent when such a spectacle has been presented to the view of the natives, whose idea of full dress is very like that prevalent at fashionable balls except that their garments are consistently brief at both ends.

All is not unanimity in Washington territory, as is shown by the following, from the Spokane Falls Review of recent date:

"In suggesting that Washington might be admitted to statehood under the constitution adopted several years ago, the Seattle Times evidently goes so without

having read that document in the light of the present day. At the time it was adopted it was scarcely thought that eastern Washington was worth consideration. It was framed about the time Dennis Kearney and his sand-lot treatment were howling through the land and the writer of what was to become our fundamental law imbrued freely on the spirit then extant. What suited the people of Washington territory in 1876 and 1878 would not begin to suit them now. Most certainly eastern Washington would not accept the terms of the old constitution, even if it was satisfactory to the west side, which it is not. It can only serve us as a piece of ancient political literature."

THE CLAYTON ASSASSINATION.

The assassination of John M. Clayton in Arkansas, last week, was one of those utterly indefensible crimes which have done so much to excite prejudice in the north against the people of the south, and more especially against southern democrats. As far as the dispatches show, Mr. Clayton had done nothing but what he had a perfect moral and legal right to do. He had been a republican candidate for congress, and on the face of the returns was defeated by a little more than eight hundred votes. He and his friends thought there was good ground for contesting the seat of Mr. Breckenridge, who was declared elected, and Mr. Clayton appears to have been engaged in the collection of evidence to that end when he was killed. It is peculiarly the duty of the democrats of Arkansas to see to it that justice is meted out to the murderer of Mr. Clayton. There should and probably will be no attempt to screen the culprit, whoever he may be, and it is more than likely he will be found to be a person whose act was prompted by pure diabolism rather than by any political bias. The era of barbarism is past, and men's lives must be made secure in all parts of the country, regardless whether they are in harmony with the political sentiment of the community in which they reside or not.

Upon this subject the New York World says:

"The victim was a neighbor and friend of Representative Breckenridge. They canvassed the district together and Mr. Clayton had previously voted for Mr. Clayton for sheriff. The murder has every appearance of being the work of desperate desperadoes. To hold the democrats of Arkansas responsible for the foul deed is as unjust as it would have been to hold the republican stalwarts responsible for the crime of Guitouso."

The governor of Missouri has appointed Feb. 19 as the day for holding an election in the fourth congressional district of that state to fill the vacancy caused in the fifth and fifty-first congresses by the death of Representative James Burnes. The plurality of Mr. Burnes at the November election was 1,317, and only the utmost folly and negligence on the part of democrats would enable the republicans to elect a representative from that district.

BOZEMAN'S BRIGHT PROSPECTS.

Work on Several New Enterprises to Be Pushed in the Gem City. BOZEMAN, Feb. 5.—[Special correspondence of the Independent.]—The unexpected termination of the distillery enterprise, however satisfactory it may be to the prohibition element of this community, has disappointed the farming and commercial classes in no small degree. It promised to provide a ready market for the cereal products of this valley, and following it a train of auxiliary enterprises were predicted, such as would have advanced the population of Bozeman one hundred per cent. within the year of its inauguration. Cattle yards for feeding would have been a certainty, and slaughtering houses and a tannery were possibilities, while a paper mill was under consideration by eastern capitalists. The demand for rye, which has increased since the supply of vast quantities of the kind and quality of straw required for the manufacture of the various kinds of commercial paper.

However, the progress of Bozeman will not be retarded by the failure of these industries which have already assumed definite and practical form. Among these is the proposed work upon which began to-day, and the city water works, piping for which also arrived to-day. The water will be taken from a spring in the mountains north of the town at an elevation of 200 feet. The supply will be amply sufficient, the water being of most excellent quality, while the pressure will be ample for every purpose desired.

The hot and warm winds of the past two or three days have nearly swept off the snow from the country roads and the slights is practically at an end. Business holds good notwithstanding, and the promise for spring trade is flattering.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Who Visits It, What For, and the Class of Books Which Are Most Perused. Other places of the size of Helena may have larger and more select libraries, but our public library is well patronized and the attendance is daily increasing. While an independent reporter was in the library yesterday afternoon he noticed that at least five women to one man came after books or to consult authorities.

"I just came up to renew this book, which I haven't finished reading yet," said a pretty young miss, "and as I didn't want to be fined I thought I'd let you know."

"What is the fine?" asked the reporter as the young lady left the library. "Only five cents a day."

"Do you collect many fines?" "No, indeed; but when I first took charge here nearly every one that borrowed a book returned it from one to two days after time; but I rigidly enforced the rule by fining each tardy subscriber. They didn't take kindly to it at first, but now I have but little trouble. It is very rarely that a fine is imposed."

"What kind of literature is mostly read?" "Now, I'm almost ashamed to tell you, especially since Helena's reputation for refined tastes has been talked of all over the territory; but the fact is 90 per cent of the books read are works of fiction. This is divided up into about fifty-five girls and boys' fiction, fifty-five boys' and boys' fiction, and the remainder read history and biographies of great men. But since we have received the scientific works there has been a number of visitors who were never here before."

"What is the average time taken in reading a work?" "The girls read a book through from four to six days, but the boys and men are very rapid readers, as an example let me show you," and taking up a card which had just been returned by a boy he said, "now there's a record-holder for fast reading. One of these cards calls for nineteen books. This young man has read that many in nineteen days. I've just had this card out for a curiosity, and the books he read are all love stories, too."

"You don't keep nickle and dime novels?" "No, but some of the works of fiction are as good as any."

"Have you a complete catalogue of the library?" "No six, and it is something we should have; and if I had the time I would make one. You see we only open the library at 1 o'clock in the afternoon and close at 5, and then open again in the evening a short while. The number of visitors is rapidly increasing daily, so that it requires all my time to attend to them. Now last month we had 3,800 visitors and loaned out 2,000 books. Just six months ago, the month of June, 800 books were borrowed which is a good illustration of the increased popularity of the library. Very soon it will be necessary I think to keep open in the morning. In that case I shall prepare the new catalogue."

The library now contains about 5,000 volumes. Nearly all the territorial papers are to be found on its tables, besides the popular magazines of the day."

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Job Work. The INDEPENDENT job rooms are now the most complete in the territory. Within the past few weeks we have received a complete line of new type, and are now prepared to do both plain and fancy work on the shortest notice.

Notice to Subscribers. We have within the past few days received many remittances from subscribers who fail to give their postoffice addresses. Several have also neglected to sign their names. Many wish to have their addresses changed, but fail to give their former postoffice. Subscribers will confer a great favor by sending unnecessary delays by giving correctly the name of their present and former addresses.

Excursion Rates East. The Union Pacific railway company will sell excursion tickets from Helena to Council Bluffs, Omaha, St. Joseph, Leavenworth and Kansas City from Jan. 20 to 26, inclusive, for \$40 for the round trip, good ninety days from date of sale.

Cure for Sick Headache. If you want a remedy for biliousness, pimples in the face, and a sure cure for sick headache, ask Dr. H. S. Hall & Co., the druggists, for a free sample of Dr. Gunn's Liver Pills. Only one for a dose; full box 25 cents.

THE MARKETS.

STOCKS. New York, Feb. 4.—Bar silver, 94 1/2. Lead, 5 1/2. Tin, 11 1/2. Copper, 13 1/2. Iron, 11 1/2. Steel, 11 1/2. Coal, 11 1/2. Oil, 11 1/2. Wheat, 11 1/2. Corn, 11 1/2. Cotton, 11 1/2. Sugar, 11 1/2. Rice, 11 1/2. Flour, 11 1/2. Lard, 11 1/2. Tallow, 11 1/2. Hides, 11 1/2. Wool, 11 1/2. Live stock, 11 1/2. Cattle, 11 1/2. Horses, 11 1/2. Sheep, 11 1/2. Pigs, 11 1/2. Butter, 11 1/2. Eggs, 11 1/2. Beans, 11 1/2. Peas, 11 1/2. Lentils, 11 1/2. Oats, 11 1/2. Hay, 11 1/2. Straw, 11 1/2. Timber, 11 1/2. Lumber, 11 1/2. Brick, 11 1/2. Stone, 11 1/2. Glass, 11 1/2. Paper, 11 1/2. Ink, 11 1/2. Stationery, 11 1/2. Printing, 11 1/2. Binding, 11 1/2. Advertising, 11 1/2. Real estate, 11 1/2. Insurance, 11 1/2. Banking, 11 1/2. Finance, 11 1/2. Commerce, 11 1/2. Industry, 11 1/2. Agriculture, 11 1/2. Transportation, 11 1/2. Communication, 11 1/2. Education, 11 1/2. Religion, 11 1/2. Art, 11 1/2. Science, 11 1/2. Literature, 11 1/2. Music, 11 1/2. Drama, 11 1/2. Sport, 11 1/2. Amusement, 11 1/2. Entertainment, 11 1/2. Recreation, 11 1/2. Pastime, 11 1/2. Hobby, 11 1/2. Interest, 11 1/2. Pleasure, 11 1/2. Amusement, 11 1/2. Entertainment, 11 1/2. Recreation, 11 1/2. Pastime, 11 1/2. Hobby, 11 1/2. Interest, 11 1/2. Pleasure, 11 1/2.

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